

REMARKS

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to remove references to claim 1, claim 31 has been amended to include the feature of claim 37 (now cancelled) and to improve its presentation, claims 32, 34, 39, 40, 42, 47, 48, 49 and 54 have been corrected, and claim 56 has been canceled. Entry is requested.

The inventors herewith submit a supplemental page 18 for this application containing an abstract of the disclosure. A Letter Re Drawings is also submitted.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 31-36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 47-57 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Metrikin, he has rejected claims 31, 40, 43 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heshmat, and he has rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metrikin in view of Horton et al.

The inventors assert that this latter rejection cannot be properly applied to the amended claims.

Metrikin discloses a dental handpiece (Fig. 4) which includes bearings 30 that use retainers 20 made of a body 12 (polyamideimide polymer) plated with a solid porous lubricant silver (or gold) layer impregnated with lubricant.

Horton et al. disclose a coated rolling element bearing formed of an inner ring, an outer ring and rolling elements in contact with the raceways of both, the rolling elements and/or the raceway of at least one of the rings being coated with a metal-mixed diamond-like carbon layer, which coating provides low friction and high wear resistance.

However, the lubricant coating disclosed in Horton et al. is non-porous, whereas the lubricant layer disclosed in Metrikin is porous. And Horton et al. makes no mention of a dental instrument. As such, the inventors do not believe it would be obvious to apply the coating of Horton et al. as a substitute for the lubricant coating of Metrikin.

Favorable reevaluation is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG 4a

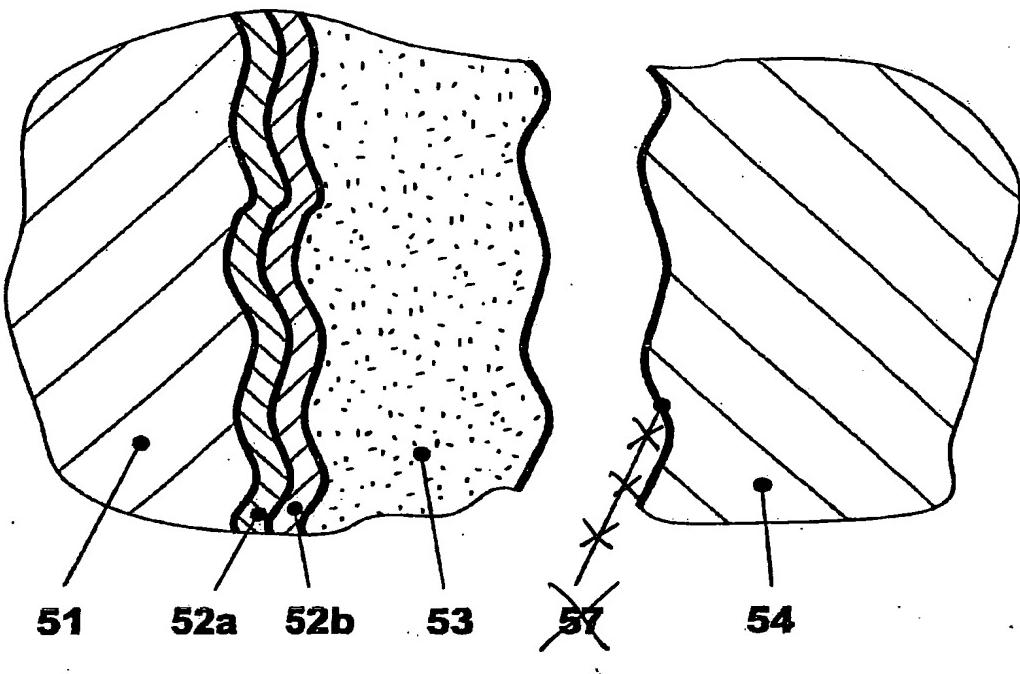


FIG 4b

